(b) if so, what precise apprehensions were expressed by the President elect of ICC and what was the Prime Minister's response thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTRY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) The President of International Chamber of Commerce met the Prime Minister on 30th December, 1992. The objective of the meeting was not to express the industry's concern about the impact of Ayodhya incidence and its aftermath on the pace of economic reforms;

(b) No apprehensions were expressed by the President elect of ICC on impact of Ayodhya incidence. The President elect conveyed to the Prime Minister industry's support for continuation of economic reforms in the country.

Smuggling on Rajasthan Border

3474. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA :
DR. BAPU KALDATE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the smuggling of a chemical called ascetic anhydride into Pakistan from the Rajasthan border as it fetches enormously a high price being in short supply in Pakistan;

(b) whether Government are also aware of the changing tracks for smuggling in Rajasthan desert;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to intensify the measures in checking the smuggling from Rajasthan border.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) Government are aware of such smuggling.

(b) and (c) Available reports do not indicate any significant change in the tracks for smuggling in Rajasthan desert.

(d) A new Sub-Collectorate of Customs with headquarters at Jodhpur with 5 Customs Divisions and 21 Customs Ranges was created in 1989 for combating smuggling on the Rajasthan-Pakistan border. A Regional Unit of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and a Sub-Unit have been recently opened at Jaipur and Jodhpur respectively. The Officers of Border Security Force deployed on the Rajasthan-Pakistan border are designated as Customs Officers. Close coordination is being maintained among all the agencies concerned in the detection and prevention of smuggling.

Working of Mahila Nidhi Scheme

3475. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the working of the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) assisted new 'Mahila Nidhi Scheme'; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) Yes, Madam. The Government is aware of the Mahila Nidhi Scheme which was initially introduced by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) in July, 1989 and subsequently taken over by the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) when it came into existence on 2-4-1990.

(b) Under the Scheme, equity type of assistance is provided to women entrepreneurs to set up new industrial projects costing upto Rs. 10 lakhs under the SSI sector. All new industrial projects in the SSI sector, as also service activities, set up by women entrepreneurs are eligible for assistance. The scheme envisages a debt equity ratio not exceeding 3 : 1 and a minimum promoters contribution of 10% of the project cost. Under the Scheme, seed capital assistance by way of a soft loan is given upto a maximum of 15% of the project cost to meet the gap in equity after taking into account the promoters' own contribution. No